

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 STOCKH 01483 01 OF 02 141644Z

ACTION OES-07

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 EA-12 IO-14 ISO-00 AID-05 CEQ-01

CIAE-00 SOE-02 COME-00 DODE-00 EB-08 EPA-04

INR-10 L-03 NSF-02 NSC-05 NSAE-00 PM-05 ICA-20

SS-15 SP-02 DOE-15 INT-05 /148 W

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R 141330Z APR 78

FM AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3549

INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA

AMEMBASSY ATHENS

AMEMBASSY BERN

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

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AMEMBASSY HELSINKI

AMEMBASSY LISBON

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AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

AMEMBASSY VIENNA

USMISSION GENEVA

UNCLAS SECTION 1 OF 2 STOCKHOLM 1483

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PAGE 02 STOCKH 01483 01 OF 02 141644Z

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SENV, OECD, OCON, XT

SUBJ: INTERNATIONAL MEETING ON THE CONTROL OF TOXIC CHEMICALS

SUMMARY: AD HOC MEETING ON REPRESENTATIVES OF 16 COUNTRIES AND

6 INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS TOOK PLACE IN STOCKHOLM APRIL 11-13 TO DISCUSS INTERNATIONAL ASPECTS OF CONTROL OF TOXIC CHEMICALS. GENERAL AGREEMENT WAS REACHED ON NECESSITY OF ACCELERATED INTERNATIONAL CONSULTATION AND COOPERATION. THERE WAS CONSENSUS THAT IMMEDIATE TASKS WILL FALL PRIMARILY UNDER OECD, WITH IMPORTANT LONG-TERM ROLE FOR WHO IN ALL HEALTH-RELATED ASPECTS. END SUMMARY.

1. AFTER DISCUSSION OF 4 MAJOR THEMES (HAZARD ASSESSMENT, TRADE ISSUES, INFORMATION EXCHANGE (INCLUDING EARLY WARNING) AND CONFIDENTIALITY), CHAIRMAN OPENED DISCUSSION.

2. U.S. DELEGATE STATED THAT REGULATORY SCHEMES BEING DEVELOPED BY VARIOUS GOVERNMENTS REQUIRE IMMEDIATE ACTION TO ENSURE CONSISTENCY. PRIORITIES INCLUDE:

- A. CONTINUATION OF EFFORTS BY OECE CHEMICALS GROUP TO CREATE CONSISTENT TESTING STANDARDS.
  - B. DEVELOPMENT OF CONSISTENT STANDS FOR GOOD LABORATORY PRACTICES AND MEANS FOR ENFORCING THEM.
  - C. DEVELOPMENT OF INTERNATIONAL GLOSSARY FOR KEY TERMS.
  - D. DEVELOPMENT OF SOLUTIONS TO PROBLEMS OF CONFIDENTIALITY OF DATA (NEED TO DISCLOSE HEALTH AND SAFETY DATA BALANCED WITH LEGITIMATE INTEREST OF INDUSTRIES IN PROTECTING THEIR TRADE SECRETS).
  - E. DEVELOPMENT OF ANALYSES OF ECONOMIC AND TRADE IMPACTS
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PAGE 03 STOCKH 01483 01 OF 02 141644Z

OF REGULATORY ACTIONS.

3. OECD THE LOGICAL FORUM FOR NEAR-TERM HARMONIZATION OF NATIONAL REGULATORY SCHEMES. TO SUPPLEMENT CHEMICALS GROUP WORK, OECD COULD SERVE AS CONVENER FOR INTERGOVERNMENTAL TECHNICAL WORKING GROUPS TO ACCOMPLISH ABOVE TASKS. IN ADDITION, OECD MIGHT PROVIDE A FORUM FOR ADMINISTRATORS WITH DIRECT RESPONSIBILITY FOR RESPECTIVE NATIONAL REGULATORY SCHEMES TO MEET AND GIVE THE TECHNICAL GROUPS SPECIFIC DIRECTION. SUCH A FORUM WOULD ALSO PROVIDE ADMINISTRATORS WITH OPPORTUNITY FOR CONTINUING CONSULTATIONS ON CURRENT AND PROJECTED POLICIES AND LEGISLATION. RECOGNIZING THAT INCREASED RESOURCES WOULD HAVE TO BE PROVIDED IF OECD ASSUMES ADDITIONAL CONVENER ROLE, UNITED STATES PREPARED TO CONTRIBUTE REASONABLE AMOUNT OF FUNDS TO MEET THESE GOALS.

4. WITH REFERENCE TO LONG-TERM PROBLEM OF IMPROVING OVER-ALL DATA BASE, NATIONS MUST CONTINUOUSLY IMPROVE QUALITY OF METHODS FOR TESTING AND EVALUATION OF EXPERIMENTAL DATA. WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION (WHO) WORKING WITH UNEP COULD BE FRAMEWORK FOR CONTINUING SCIENTIFIC ENDEAVOR IN THIS FIELD. WHO IN THE LONG TERM COULD HELP IMPROVE METHODOLOGIES, EPIDEMIOLOGICAL STUDIES, AND HEALTH RISK EVALUATION. IN ADDITION, WHO COULD ASSIST IN

DEVELOPMENT OF AN EMERGENCY RESPONSE CAPABILITY FOR INTERNATIONAL  
CHEMICAL ACCIDENTS AND STIMULATE TECHNICAL COOPERATION IN  
COUNTRIES WHERE CAPACITY IS LACKING.

5. U.S. ALSO NOTED NEED FOR PARTICIPATION OF NON-GOVERNMENTAL  
SCIENTIFIC COMMUNITY.

6. SIMILARLY, COUNTRIES SHOULD SHARE EXPERIENCE AND ASSIST  
UNEP IN DESIGNING IRPTC.

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PAGE 01 STOCKH 01483 02 OF 02 141715Z  
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UNCLAS SECTION 2 OF 2 STOCKHOLM 1483

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PAGE 02 STOCKH 01483 02 OF 02 141715Z

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7. U.S. POINTS RECEIVED GENERAL APPROVAL. SPECIFIC COMMENTS  
FROM OTHER DELEGATIONS:

CANADA: 20 PERCENT OF CANADIAN CHEMICAL PRODUCTION EXPORTED  
TO U.S. AND MUST CONFORM TO TSCA REQUIREMENTS. CONCURS IN  
BROADER MANDATE FOR OECD AND SUPPORT WHO WORK IN HEALTH AREA  
AND UNEP IN COORDINATING INFORMATION EXCHANGE. STRESSED  
IMPORTANCE OF HARMONIZATION OF TESTING REQUIREMENTS PLUS  
LONGER TERM INDUSTRIAL NEEDS.

NORWAY: AGREED WITH STATEMENT OF COSTLE CALLING FOR BROAD  
INTERNATIONAL AGREEMENT. BETTER COORDINATION OF INTERNATIONAL  
ORGANIZATION ACTIVITIES NEEDED. SOME WORK ON MORE FORMAL UNDER-  
TAKING REQUIRING FIRM OBLIGATION OF GOVERNMENTS SHOULD START IN  
NOT TOO DISTANT FUTURE.

UNITED KINGDOM: OECD OFFERS BEST HOPE FOR URGENT PROBLEMS  
OF 1979. PREFERS SPECIFIC AD HOC ARRANGEMENTS. ACCEPTS  
CONCEPT OF GOOD LABORATORY PRACTICES AND SOME METHOD OF ASSUR-  
ANCE THAT THESE ARE BEING FOLLOWED.

DENMARK: HIGH PRIORITY GIVEN TO WORK WITHIN EC DOES NOT MEAN  
MEMBER COUNTRIES DO NOT RECOGNIZE NEED FOR BROADER COOPERATION  
SUCH AS EC-7.S. CONSULTATIONS. BROAD UNDERSTANDING OF NEED  
FOR EXPANDING THESE DISCUSSIONS ALONG THE LINES MENTIONED BY  
COSTLE AND PRESENTED BY OECD.

FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF GERMANY: COMMENDED DANISH REMARKS. PRE-  
PARED TO PUT MONEY, MANPOWER, AND RESOURCES AT DISPOSAL OF  
OECD.

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PAGE 03 STOCKH 01483 02 OF 02 141715Z

AUSTRALIA: WISHES TO HARMONIZE NATIONAL CONTROL MEASURES,  
E.G. LABELING. SUPPORTS NORWAY'S DESIRE FOR STATEMENT OF  
POLITICAL INTENT.

SWEDEN: AGREED WITH U.S. RANKING OF PRIORITIES. WILL SUPPORT INCREASE IN OECD EFFORT.

JAPAN: SHARES U.S. VIEWS ON DIVISION OF WORK IN DIFFERENT INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS. SYMPATHETIC TO COSTLE PROPOSALS FOR NEW OECD TASKS.

8. CONCLUSIONS: THE MEETING IDENTIFIED PRIORITY AREAS TO BE COMPLETED AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.

- DEVELOPMENT OF CONSISTENT DATA REQUIREMENTS AND TESTING METHODS.
- DEVELOPMENT OF CONSISTENT STANDARDS FOR GOOD LABORATORY PRACTICE AND EFFECTIVE MEANS OF ENFORCING THEM.
- MECHANISMS TO FACILITATE INFORMATION EXCHANGE BOTH SUBSTANCE-RELATED DATA AND ADMINISTRATIVE ACTIONS.
- CONFIDENTIALITY OF DATA ENSURE INTERNATIONAL EXCHANGE OF HEALTH AND SAFETY DATA AND TO PROVIDE ADEQUATE PROTECTION FOR LEGITIMATE TRADE SECRETS.
- NEED TO DEVELOP CONSISTENT METHODOLOGIES FOR ANALYZING THE ECONOMIC AND TRADE IMPACT OF ACTIONS IN REGULATING TOXIC CHEMICALS. CONSISTENT INTERNATIONAL GLOSSARY OF KEY TERMS SHOULD BE DEVELOPED.

9. OTHER PROBLEMS OF IMPORTANCE NOTED:

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PAGE 04 STOCKH 01483 02 OF 02 141715Z

- EMERGENCY RESPONSE TO ACCIDENTAL RELEASES.
- CODE FOR GOOD MANUFACTURING PRACTICES.
- SCIENTIFIC DEVELOPMENT OF NEW TESTING METHODS, BOTH HEALTH-RELATED AS WELL AS RELATED TO ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT.
- MANPOWER TRAINING.
- COST REIMBURSEMENT SCHEME FOR TESTING.
- GUIDELINES FOR LABELLING AND PACKAGING.
- CODE FOR TOXIC WASTE DISPOSAL.
- HARMONIZATION OF APPROACHES TO RISK EVALUATION.

10. ACTION NEEDED. MEETING RECOGNIZED THAT: TO ACCOMPLISH

TASKS SUBSTANTIAL RESOURCES MAY NEED TO BE ALLOCATED FOR  
ACTIVITIES ON BOTH THE NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL LEVELS.  
OECD THE APPROPRIATE FORUM IN WHICH EXPEDIENT ACTION SHOULD  
BE TAKEN IN SOME OF THE PRIORITY AREAS IDENTIFIED. NINE  
NATIONS INFORMALLY CONFIRMED WILLINGNESS TO CONTRIBUTE RESOURCES.  
OECD ASKED TO ESTABLISH A STEERING COMMITTEE FOR ADMINISTRATORS  
TO MEET AND GIVE SPECIFIC DIRECTION TO THOSE WORKING ON THE  
PRIORITY TASKS. KEY ROLE OF WHO WAS RECOGNIZED IN ALL ASPECTS  
CONCERNING THE EFFECTS OF TOXIC CHEMICALS ON HUMAN HEALTH AND  
ITS RELEVANT PROGRAMES SHOULD BE SUPPORTED. ALSO NOTED  
UNEP'S SPECIAL GLOBAL AND CATALYTIC ROLE IN THIS CONTEXT.  
EFFORTS WITHIN ECE AND ILO WITH RESPECT TO MANY OF THE PRO-  
GRAMES IDENTIFIED AS IMPORTANT. CONTINUED SUPPORT OF THESE  
ACTIVITIES WAS VIEWED AS ESSENTIAL BUT UNNECESSARY DUPLICATION  
SHOULD BE AVOIDED. MOST DELEGATIONS AGREED THAT CONDIDER-  
ATION SHOULD BE GIVEN TO PREPARATORY WORK FOR A FUTURE INTER-  
NATIONAL AGREEMENT IN THE AREA OF TOXIC AND HAZARDOUS CHEMICALS.  
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PAGE 05 STOCKH 01483 02 OF 02 141715Z

KENNEDY-MINOTT

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## Message Attributes

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**Review Markings:**  
Sheryl P. Walter  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
20 Mar 2014  
**Markings:** Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014